

What is claimed:

1. A neuropilin antagonist that binds neuropilin and has VEGF antagonist activity as determined by the human umbilical vein endothelial cell (HUVEC) proliferation assay using VEGF₁₆₅.
2. The neuropilin antagonist of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is an antibody that specifically inhibits binding of VEGF to a neuropilin receptor.
3. The neuropilin antagonist of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is a member of the semaphorin/collapsin family or a fragment thereof.
4. The neuropilin antagonist of claim 1, wherein the member of the semaphorin/collapsin family is collapsin-1.
5. An antibody directed against a neuropilin receptor, wherein said antibody specifically inhibits binding of VEGF to the receptor.
6. The antibody of claim 5, wherein the neuropilin is NP-1 or NP-2.
7. A method for identifying an antagonist which binds to a neuropilin, comprising exposing the neuropilin to the molecule suspected of binding thereto and determining binding of the molecule to the receptor.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the neuropilin is NP-1 or NP-2.
9. A method of inhibiting metastasis in a patient having malignant cells which comprises:
 - (a) determining whether the patient's malignant cells express a neuropilin, and if they do adding a compound that interferes with the neuropilin.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the compound interferes with the binding activity of the neuropilin.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the compound is an antibody that specifically binds neuropilin or a neuropilin antagonist.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein the compound interferes with neuropilin expression.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is a member of the semaphorin/collapsin family or a fragment thereof.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the member of the semaphorin/collapsin family is collapsin-1.
15. The method of claim 9, wherein the malignant cell is a breast or prostate cell or a melanoma.
16. The method of claim 9, wherein the neuropilin is VEGF₁₆₅R/NP-1 or NP-2.
17. Use of a member of the semaphorin/collapsin family in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder associated with VEGF.